

schools and colleges, to actually go out and to look into the heavens and get to know about the intricacies and the stories and the forces at work in this vast area around this planet and around this universe and around our solar system.

It will, I believe, go a long way to encouraging young people who, let us say if we inspire them with this bill, they might make a lifetime of contributions. We may be encouraging a young lady or a young man who later on would become the Pete Conrad of the next generation, because he or she would be so excited in understanding that they had seen something in space that perhaps no one else had seen, and strive towards that type of accomplishment.

I think that that is one element of this legislation that we should not overlook. It is very futuristic-oriented, but there are some real positive benefits today, as well.

One last note about George Brown, who was the chairman of the Committee on Science while I was a junior member of the Committee on Science. Let me say that for George Brown, this was an area of his interest. I forgot about that until I was just reminded by my friend, the gentleman from Colorado. George Brown took a personal interest in this.

I will have the Members know that George Brown was one of the most admired men here in Congress. He was such a fine person, and his memory to this day, I am glad the gentleman brought it up here in remembering Pete, these were the kinds of Americans that really made this country. George Brown was really kind of a real liberal guy compared to my political area in the spectrum, and Pete, I guess, was a little more conservative, on the conservative side of the spectrum, although he was nonpolitical. He was just a real professional in that business.

But I would say that what we are talking about when we talk about developing technologies and taking America into the future and creating this type of a vision, it is something that can unite a country and a people and has served to unite us in the past.

I believe that America's space program has not gotten the attention it deserves in these last, I would say, 15 years. That was something that George Brown was fighting for when he was alive. That is what he really wanted to do, and I am sorry that he was not able to fully succeed in reenergizing America's space program; and I do not think we have, either. We are all working on it.

Perhaps if we can attract the younger generation by offering them a chance like this to actually participate and to find some things in space, we should go out of our way to make sure that we do that. That is what this bill does. I am sorry, maybe I should have named it the Pete Conrad and the George Brown bill, but we remember

George tonight as we debate this, because I am sure he would be more than happy to be here tonight helping out, if he was alive and with us. I remember his passing, and I miss him very much.

So, Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to support this legislation and to remember Pete Conrad and keep looking up, as we do.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I submitted the following correspondence:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,

Washington, DC September 30, 2002.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker, Office of the Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT: I am writing to inform you that the Committee on Science has discharged from further consideration H.R. 5030, the "Charles 'Pete' Conrad Astronomy Awards Act." H.R. 5303 was referred to this Committee on July 26, 2002.

Sincerely,

SHERWOOD, L. BOEHLERT,

Chairman.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HART). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5303, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR GOALS AND IDEAS OF DAY OF TRIBUTE TO ALL FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 476) expressing support for the goals and ideas of a day of tribute to all firefighters who have died in the line of duty and recognizing the important mission of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in assisting family members to overcome the loss of their fallen heroes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 476

Whereas for over 350 years the Nation's firefighters have dedicated their lives to the safety of their fellow Americans;

Whereas throughout the Nation's history many firefighters have fallen in the line of duty, leaving behind family members and friends who have grieved their untimely losses;

Whereas these individuals served with pride and honor as volunteer and career firefighters;

Whereas until 1980 there was not a national tribute to honor these heroes for their acts of valor or a support system to help the families of these heroes rebuild their lives;

Whereas in 1992 Congress created the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to lead a nationwide effort to remember the Nation's fallen firefighters through a variety of activities;

Whereas each year the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation hosts an annual memorial service to honor the memory of all firefighters who die in the line of duty and bring support and counseling to their families;

Whereas in 2002 the memorial service will take place the weekend of October 5 and 6;

Whereas 446 fallen firefighters, including firefighters from 34 States, will be honored in 2002; and

Whereas many of their family members are expected to attend the memorial service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That Congress supports the goals and ideas of a day of tribute to all firefighters who have died in the line of duty and recognizes the important mission of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in assisting family members to overcome the loss of their fallen heroes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H. Con. Res. 476.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this important resolution that I cosponsored with my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), provides us with an opportunity to honor the commitment and bravery of those firefighters who gave their lives while in the line of duty during the year 2001. It also recognizes the important mission and contributions of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

In 1992, Congress created the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to lead a nationwide effort to remember our fallen heroes of these first responders. The Foundation has successfully met this challenge, providing a variety of supporting activities to surviving family members, including emotional support, awards, scholarships for surviving spouses and children, and the establishment of the national park in Emmitsburg, Maryland, to memorialize the fallen firefighters.

Madam Speaker, this Sunday the Foundation will honor 446 firefighters that lost their lives in the line of duty at an annual ceremony usually held in Emmitsburg, but this year held here in Washington. The Foundation is expecting over 20,000 people to attend this year's memorial weekend, a record number. Many of these people will be spouses and children of the 343 firefighters that perished September 11.

On that warm September morning in 2001, the firefighters of the New York

City Fire Department reported to work as they did every day, ready to respond to whatever emergency situation might occur. But that morning was different. The 110-story World Trade Centers that were both literally and symbolically the center of world commerce were hit by two hijacked 747s.

The firefighters of the New York Fire Department received the most terrifying and overwhelming emergency call that this Nation has ever known. Still, they responded with true bravery, rushing into that burning building without hesitation. They helped evacuate 25,000 people, 25,000, the largest evacuation in the history of the world, and certainly they struggled until the last possible moments to free those who were trapped. Three hundred forty-three of them lost their lives in doing so. It was on that September day that the American firefighter, I think, became the symbol of American freedom and American bravery to not only those of us in the United States, but certainly to millions around the world.

In addition to the heroism displayed on 9-11, we know that first responders all over the country display similar heroism every day, not just when major disaster strikes, but every day, as full-time and volunteers often risk their lives to protect the lives and property of people around the country.

Fire and emergency service personnel respond to over 16 million calls annually. In addition to the 343 heroes that gave their lives in New York City on 9-11, last year we lost another 99 firefighters, volunteers and full-time, working in the line of duty to save property and lives.

I think we all agree that it is our job as Americans and as Members of Congress to never forget the sacrifices of those who protect us, and I commend the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation for its exceptional efforts in leading this charge. I offer my strongest support to this resolution, and certainly invite my colleagues to attend this Sunday's tribute.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 476. As my friend, the gentleman from Michigan, has so articulately pointed out, this resolution salutes the memory of the brave firefighters who gave their lives to help their citizens during the past year. It also recognizes the efforts of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to help our Nation honor the firefighters who die in the line of duty each year.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is a charitable, nonprofit corporation funded by donations from individuals and corporations. The Foundation maintains and preserves the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, which is on the grounds of the National Fire Academy in Emmits-

burg, Maryland. This memorial is a 7-foot stone monument topped by a sculptured bronze Maltese cross, which is a traditional symbol of the fire service. The monument is encircled by plaques listing the names of those who have died in service to their communities.

□ 2215

In 1990, Congress approved a joint resolution to designate this striking monument as the official national memorial to volunteer and career firefighters who die in the line of duty. Each October during Fire Prevention Week, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation organizes a memorial service held at the monument to honor all of the career and volunteer firefighters who were killed in the line of duty during the previous year. This year the ceremony will take place this coming weekend of October 5 and 6. The ceremony will honor 446 firefighters from 34 States who gave their lives last year. This includes the 347 heroes who perished at the World Trade Center. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation will provide support for the firefighters' families wishing to attend the memorial service in honor of their loved ones. It is appropriate that Congress by means of the resolution now before the House calls to the Nation's attention the dedication and sacrifice of the fire services during this week leading to the ceremony in Washington.

I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH), and I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) for taking the lead in developing H. Con. Res. 476 and for their leadership in the House on fire service-related issues. And I also wanted to thank the chairman of the Committee on Science, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), for his efforts to bring the resolution to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support passage of the measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), the author of this important resolution but also a firefighter himself, the motivator for the assistance of the Firefighter Grant Program that we started a couple years ago.

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague for yielding me time, and I thank my friend and colleague on the other side for support. I also thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) who have been outstanding advocates for the firefighters of America.

As my colleagues know, I would not be in public life were it not for the fire

service, having grown up in a fire service family. The earliest recollections of spending time with my father was at the firehouse with him and with my six older brothers. It was only natural that when I became 18 I joined the department and eventually worked up to becoming president and chief. I then went back to school while teaching during the day to get a degree in fire protection. So all of my life has been devoted to these outstanding men and women who protect us in 32,000 departments and consist of 1.2 million men and women.

Madam Speaker, this resolution as has been outlined by my colleagues recognizes America's domestic defenders. These are the people who protect our country every day of the year and have been doing so for 350 years, longer than the country has been a country. Because when Ben Franklin started the first fire department in Philadelphia, it was an all-volunteer group, and it was in fact started before America became a Nation. They have been our domestic defenders ever since. In fact, I call them our first responders. Much like our military protects us against threats from outside of our country, our domestic defenders protect us from those threats within America. And in fact they are being asked to do more and more as we face the threats of terrorism on our soil.

Madam Speaker, each year we have in fact acknowledged those who have lost their lives. We average about a hundred deaths a year at Emmitsburg, the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. I have made that trip at least three times since I have been in Congress, and I can tell you there is no more of a memorable event than to spend time with those families of brave Americans who pay the ultimate price.

Madam Speaker, as founder and original chairman of the Congressional Fire and EMS Caucus, which now has 340 members of the House and Senate, I have traveled to every disaster we have had in the country in the past 16 years. From the wild lands fires in the western part of the country, in California, in the north, in Yellowstone Park, to the hurricanes down in the South, Andrew and Hugo, the Murrah Building bombing down in Oklahoma City, the Northridge and Loma Prieta earthquake. I was up at the World Trade Center in 1993 and back 2 days after September 11.

Madam Speaker, when I went up to the Trade Center in 1993, I was escorted through that building, that bombed-out parking garage, by a rising young emerging chief of the New York City Fire Department. He and I became good friends, and we traveled around the country over the past 9 years talking about the need to understand the first responders and provide support for them.

On two o'clock on September 11, I got a frantic phone call on my cell phone from my friends in New York that my good friend who had taken me through

the Trade Center in 1993 was killed when the buildings collapsed.

Ray Downing was the chief of all rescue operations for New York City on September 11. He was the guy who was overseeing the bulk of the 343 New York City firefighters who were going up in the buildings when the buildings were coming down. Ray Downing left behind a wife and five kids and grandkids. In fact, 1 month after September 11, I brought them all down to my district. We had a parade with 40,000 people to honor Ray Downing as an American hero.

Perhaps one of the most emotional days I have had during my tenure in Congress was when I went to Ground Zero and spent 12 hours there 2 days after it occurred with my friends of the New York City Fire Department. We went around the back of what used to be one of the huge towers, which is now a seven-story pile of rubble; and I saw two firefighters in their turn-out gear among thousands who were collecting rubble. And I looked on the back of their turn-out gear and on the bottom were the names Downing and Downing, because Ray Downing's two sons are officers in the New York City Fire Department. One is a captain; one is a lieutenant.

They were looking for the remains of their dad. We did not find the remains of Ray Downing until 3 months ago. It was through DNA sampling. We were able to determine that Ray in fact had been accounted for.

Madam Speaker, this coming Sunday we will honor these brave firefighters, the 343 from New York and the others that combined for a total of 442 brave Americans. Anytime this country has gone to war and lost 442 of our sons and daughters, we have mourned as a Nation. Well, this past year we have lost 442 brave Americans. They were not soldiers on the battlefield overseas. They were our defenders here at home. And it is certainly fitting and proper that we set aside a day to honor them, that we have turn out, as I will be in attendance on Sunday, to pay our respects at the MCI Center here in Washington.

It is my fervent hope that all Americans pause as we begin to celebrate the national week of recognition for the fire service, always the first week in October, and pay tribute to our true American heroes.

As I have said time and time around the country, the firefighter is more than just a person who puts out the fires. It is the person you call upon to handle the hazmat incidents, the fires, and the conflagrations, the floods, the tornados, the earthquakes, the terrorist bombings. They are the people you call when the cat is in the tree, when the cellar has been flooded. They are the first group you call to organize a search party to find your lost child.

In many of our small towns, the fire house is where you vote on election day. It is the organization that hosts the July 4 and Memorial Day parades.

It is the organization where the Boy Scout troops and Girl Scout troops meet. It is the organization that makes our towns what they are. It really is, in my opinion, the heart and soul of America. I can think of no better group that represents what America is all about.

Amazingly, 85 percent of these people are volunteers. What other group in America has their volunteers killed each year in protecting the community while going out and raising the money to buy those fire trucks which costs from 4 to \$600,000 by having chicken dinners and tag days? Imagine having our police departments or trash departments out and raise the money to buy the trash trucks and the police cars.

In every fire department in America, in all of our districts there are volunteers out there just doing that. In fact, this past Labor Day at Jerry Lewis' annual telethon, as has been the case every year, the IAFF Firefighters Union was the largest contributor to the fight against muscular dystrophy, the number one group in the country in reaching out to help other people.

These truly are the heroes of our country. They are the people who time and again have allowed us to understand what America is all about, selfless service to help others. And as our friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH), said, we lost 343 at the Trade Center; but the real story is the success they had in rescuing tens of thousands of people that are today united with their families.

So I ask all of my colleagues to join with us in supporting this resolution and paying tribute to America's heroes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS), who has been very instrumental because of many of his constituents that were involved in September 11 of 2001.

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

We appreciate what our chairman has done in regards to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and his strong support of H. Con. Res. 476. I also thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) for his pursuing this effort, and, particularly, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) who has rightfully identified that the volunteer firefighters and the paid firefighters are a unique group within our country, that captures the soul and camaraderie of the spirit of America.

I do say and acknowledge that after September 11, I think all of us thought a little longer and a little harder about how much we owe to our firefighters, how much we appreciate what they do for us and how grateful we are to them.

I was reading in preparing for today to think that 446 firefighters lost their lives in the line of duty during the past year. And even if you subtract out the incredibly large number of 343 whose lives were taken on September 11, it is amazing to me to think that over 100 firefighters sacrificed themselves for

the protection of their community. I am very grateful to them.

I am very grateful to our other service industry providers, our police, our EMS and others; but tonight we are recognizing the firefighters, and this is a resolution that clearly will have 100 percent support and for very good reason. We owe a debt of gratitude to our firefighters and appreciation as well to the National Fallen Firefighters Association.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I again want to urge support for this important resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL). I will, Madam Speaker, close by saying this is a very partial tribute by the effort of every community, and certainly Congress should exert to help our firefighters throughout this country.

As the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) said, can you imagine between 70 and 85 percent, depending on the State, of these first responders, firefighters are volunteers? In the urban areas, that full-time firefighter is crucial; but in the remote villages in the rural townships, they depend on the volunteers to make sure that we have the kind of fire protection and the first responder protection that is necessary to save lives and protect property.

Tomorrow in our Committee on Science we will be taking up my bill, H.R. 4548, that continues the firefighter grant program and the gentleman from New York's (Mr. BOEHLERT) bill on legislation additionally assisting firefighters throughout the country with H.R. 3992. With that, I invite my colleagues again to attend this Sunday's ceremony.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, as we begin Nation Fire Prevention Week, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 476, a resolution paying tribute to firefighters who have died in the line of duty, and recognizing the importance of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation which assists families of firefighters killed on the job.

On September 11, 2001, the country watched brave firefighters from New York and around the country risk their lives to save others. Firefighters have a special dedication to their jobs, community and fellow man. They willingly put their lives at risk to save the life of someone unknown to them. To do this, they train hard physically, mentally and emotionally—they are the consummate professionals. They are fearless men and women, who face death with each call.

In fact, approximately 100 firefighters die each year battling what they refer to as "the dragon." As the name implies, "the dragon" is a firefighter's vernacular for a fire. The dragon does not discriminate when it comes to who or what it destroys, man, women, child or firefighter. Duty-related incidents include structural fires, wild land fires, vehicles fires, hazardous material fires, rescues and responding to the scene of an emergency.

From 1981–2001, New York lists the highest number of firefighters in the country who were lost in the line of duty. New York is at the very top of an extremely unfortunate list. Last year alone there were 347 dedicated firefighters who died in the World Trade Center disaster. Overall, the dragon kills about 4,500 people per year, more than all natural disasters combined. Another 27,000 people are injured, not to mention the emotional and financial injuries incurred by the families of fallen firefighters.

The families of firefighters live a life of uncertainty as to whether their loved one will come home each day after work. When a family receives the dreaded news that their loved one will not be returning home chaos sets in, and these survivors desperately need support. As part of an effort to remember America's fallen firefighters and to provide assistance to their survivors, Congress created the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) in 1992.

The foundation is a nonprofit organization located in Maryland which receives funding from private donations from individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations, as well as federal grant money. NFFF provides resources to families of fallen firefighters, such as a grieving network, special scholarships, and important information to families regarding federal, state, and local benefits. These benefits include lump sum death payments, workers' compensation, funeral benefits, pensions and retirement programs and private support.

NFFF also provides services such as regional training sessions to help fire departments handle a line of duty death, and an Annual National Tribute which honors survivors of firefighters who died in the previous year. This year's ceremony is scheduled for October 5 and 6, and will honor 445 firefighters, including those killed at the World Trade Center.

Last September, the entire world watched with bated breath as firefighters unselfishly and effectively did their jobs. These acts of honor and bravery were in sharp contrast to the cowardly acts of violence perpetrated on America. Our lives depend on firefighters and we are beholden to them for so very much.

I support this Resolution which reminds us all of what a difficult job firefighters have, and the sacrifices their families make. I am proud to honor the lives lost, the thousands of firefighters who continue to work tirelessly and bravely, as well as their families.

Mr. GRUCCI. Madam Speaker, I would first like to thank my colleague Congressman WELDON for his tireless efforts on behalf of America's firefighters, and for bringing this measure to the floor today.

Few images throughout history more clearly illustrate heroism better than the images of brave firefighters entering the World Trade Center—knowing they very well may never return—with one selfless goal in mind: to save lives.

On that tragic day—September 11, 2001—347 firefighters died in the line of duty, several from my own district on Long Island.

While the heroic efforts of these brave men and women may be more clear on that day there isn't a day that passes when firefighters do not risk their own lives to save others.

Last year alone, 442 firefighters sacrificed their lives in order to save the lives of innocent victims of fire and other emergencies.

Later this week, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation will honor these firefighters and their families for the sacrifices made over

the last year. We will remember the impact these brave firefighters have made in towns and communities throughout America and the heroism that has saved countless lives.

On behalf of the First Congressional District of New York—home to several fallen firefighters—I join my colleagues in support of H. Con. Res. 476.

Mr. GEKAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 476 and urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation as well.

Our firefighters protect us every day and sometimes give up their own lives to protect and serve their communities and their fellow man. This was never more evident than on September 11, 2001. On that day, as frightened and wounded civilians ran from the World Trade Center, brave firefighters rushed in, in a determined effort to save others. These brave individuals risked everything in an effort to render aid and evacuate the people trapped in the towers. This effort cost many firefighters their lives. The September 11, 2001, attacks highlighted the spirit and courage of firefighters across the nation. Mostly volunteers, these men and women protect our lives and property, and while they never boast of their heroic deeds, they are truly heroes.

H. Con. Res. 476 reaffirms that Congress supports the goals and ideas of a day of tribute to all firefighters who have died in the line of duty and recognizes the important mission of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in assisting family members to overcome the loss of their fallen heroes. I am thankful to be able to rise today and proclaim support of H. Con. Res. 476 on behalf of every firefighter in Pennsylvania's 17th Congressional District.

Madam Speaker, this is the very least we can do. I salute Congressman WELDON for sponsoring this resolution and would like to thank him for his leadership on the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, of which I am a member. The firefighters of the United States should know that the Congressional Fire Services Caucus is continually striving to respond to their needs and to deliver to them the equipment and resources they need to do their job in a safe and effective manner.

Firefighting will never be a safe endeavor but we in Congress must do all we can to help our firefighters. No matter what we provide to our firefighters we will never equal the sacrifices they make for us. Collectively, we in Congress thank you and the passage of H. Con. Res. 476 is just a small token of appreciation. We will never be able to thank you enough.

Madam Speaker, I reaffirm my support of H. Con. Res. 476 and of the firefighters of Pennsylvania's 17th Congressional District.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 476, recognizing the goals and ideas of a day of tribute for fallen firefighters, and supporting the important mission of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

Congress created this non-profit foundation ten years ago to lead a national effort to honor firefighters who have died in the line of duty and to assist surviving firefighters and family members in rebuilding their lives.

The Foundation has been steadily expanding its activities. In addition to providing emotional support services to survivors and scholarship awards for surviving spouses and chil-

dren, the Foundation is now creating the first National Park to memorialize fallen firefighters in Emmitsburg, Maryland. And this Sunday, October 6th, the Foundation will sponsor a memorial weekend to honor the commitment, bravery and sacrifice of the 446 firefighters who died in the line of duty in the past year, 343 whose lives were taken on September 11th, 2001.

No one could have anticipated the magnitude of destruction and loss of life that occurred last September. In the wake of those tragic events, the value and contributions of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation became unmistakably clear.

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation sent support staff to Ground Zero within days of the attacks, working around the clock to coordinate chaplain support services, survivor support services, as well as logistical and administrative support association with the loss of the firefighters.

The Foundation's efforts in New York City during its time of greatest need were truly invaluable, and I proudly support its cause, as well this resolution recognizing its importance.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 30, 2002.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT

Office of the Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT, I am writing to inform you that the Committee on Science has discharged from further consideration H. Con. Res. 476, a resolution "Expressing support for the goals and ideas of a day of tribute to all firefighters who have died in the line of duty and recognizing the important mission of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in assisting family members to overcome the loss of their fallen heroes." H. Con. Res. 476 was referred to this Committee on September 19, 2002.

Sincerely,

SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT,

Chairman

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HART). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 476.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 2230

HOUSES OF WORSHIP POLITICAL SPEECH PROTECTION ACT

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2357) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit churches